



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes
June 11, 2019

Commission Present: Bossange, Kaplan, Hurley, Hale, Healy, Pierce, Farrell and Harris

Staff Present: Moreau, Roach, Cahill and Putzier

The meeting was convened at 6:23 p.m. by Commission Chair Kaplan

Tour of Water Works Park

The Commissioners and members of the public went for a tour to look at the new Water Works Park and the new private marina, and returned to the business portion of the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Motion was made to approve the agenda by Bossange, second by Pierce, motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Pierce read aloud with the motions included, motion made to approve the consent agenda by Bossange, second by Farrell, motion carried.

Introduction of New Site Coordinator at Starr Farm Dog Park

Jake Schumann stated he had previously served on Board of Registration of Voters in Burlington then introduced himself as the new Site Coordinator of the Starr Farm Dog Park. Briefly explained some of the work that is happening at the park.

Kaplan suggested that the director be contacted to answer specific questions about the dog park and not addressed to the volunteer coordinator. Public was upset by the fact that director knew that public would be at the meeting and would like more accountability.

Public Forum (Time Certain 6:30 PM)

Public forum opened at 6:30 p.m. by Commission Chair Kaplan.

Dave Hartnett, Burlington resident, introduced himself and thanked Kaplan for serving as Commissioner and former City Councilor, said he respected her work and how she would be missed. Also thanked Hale for her service. Thanked the Commission for allowing the field dedication to Dave Gretkowsky with a very nice tribute, including a plaque and bench. Stated the department was instrumental in helping to achieve, very nice way to come together and allow friends and neighbors to do. Invited all to stop by and look at the plaque and bench. Lastly was happy to see the continuation of the work on the dog park issues. Explained how this topic had been discussed at length among the Commission, City Council and PACC committee. As a former Commissioner and Councilor he was very familiar with and encouraged to work through the issues. He stated that Lee Brown asked that several issues be addressed such as; the noise, consistent hours, particularly on Sundays and holidays, making the park smaller and proof of shots and licenses. Was thankful to have the discussion come up again after a long time and welcomed the new Director and Site Coordinator.



Carol Hanson, Staniford Road resident, reiterated what Hartnett said, spoke with Franklin Polino and would be great if the dog park was only for Burlington residents, felt needs to be better for the neighborhood.

Dan Cahill, Land Steward, with BPRW, stated his role has historically helped support the dog park volunteers, position has helped support the coordination and wanted to acknowledge Eric Corbman, the past site coordinator, explained it takes a lot of time and energy in the role of site coordinator. Also explained how the park is a well-loved area and highly used. Feels headed in the right direction.

Public forum closed at 6:40 p.m.

Speed Limit on the Burlington Greenway

Kaplan explained she met with Wight and discussed the attached memo, Wight sent proposal to the Attorney's for review. The Attorney stated the document before the Commission needed to be actively voted on by them.

Bossange agreed with the document and encouraged looking at in a year to make sure the plan is still on track. All agreed will the proposed document on speed on the Greenway.

Motion to approve the proposed by Healy, second by Hale, motion carried.

Update from Vermont Adaptive

Norm Staunton, from Vermont Adaptive was introduced by Kaplan and stated that Moreau could also speak regarding the organization and any potential questions as well. Stone works for ski and sport programs year round, programs for individuals with disabilities. They support 4-5,000 lessons a year to include; biking, skiing, rock climbing, ice climbing to name a few and will find any sport to accommodate and individuals desire. He explained that 5 years ago the organization realized in order to meet needs they needed more spaces. Must move beyond the model of using other spaces. Currently built a space at Pico Mountain, and the Board realized the need to have at Sugarbush and in Burlington, on the Greenway and the Bikepath, has been working on for the last five years. Explored many options, not an easy task but imperative for all to continue to pursue. Was involved in the phases of Moran and in very close partnership with Moreau at looking at spaces. Very interested in Perkins Pier, particularly the Lyman building. Felt very under-utilized, has capital to bring to the table. Tried a lease and open discussion with two Directors, interested in letting people know what the needs are.

Hurley asked if talking about purchase and was told no just a long term lease or partnership. Would like to help develop, even if with other partners.

Moreau added she would like to improve the Perkins Pier facility, feels it falls short. Zoning regulations limit what can happen at Perkins, it has very specific uses, and things that cannot be done, had approval from zoning that the collaboration with Vermont Adaptive as an approved use. Now a possibility, looking for greater attention, other projects are ahead of this one and she is working on getting some time and the word out. Would like to see the opportunity come forward and will continue to meet and discuss the possibilities.

Staunton said the relationship is not just limited to this particular project, they can offer disability partnerships to be accessible in area of expertise.



Bossange asked if Vermont Adaptive was working with other agencies in the City and was told with CEDO specifically.

Farrell asked why Perkins had not worked in the past, several, other projects come up, the mall, Moran, other administrative goals, hit stumbling blocks as what do people want and what is actually possible. Couple of offers to lease the existing space but would like to look at what it could be with some capital. Would like to be a larger community space and a part of a larger community space not just adaptive cohabitation.

Moreau said there has been a very long standing conversation, had a vision to tear down existing building, sitting with drywall ripped out and that is all, very bad shape building, since 2011. Explained she is starting the Waterfront and Harbor master plan process, working with Planning division in City Hall, will begin in 2020 and want to make Perkins the priority. Used to have dock master office, maritime offices, need to solve this while the window is shrinking.

Healy asked if even possible to have something in the building given the water issues and Moreau said have a plan, blueprints and was always designed to let water run through it, not worried about that, however any building could be made to be able to accommodate.

Hale stated that she spent time speaking with "Oakledge For All", and that this might be a good fit for them. Asked once the playground settled could get some active volunteers to continue conversations.

Harris stated he agreed with the concept and felt a necessity particularly with all community members.

Moreau said it is rare to have an organization come to department with such a proposal and a good one.

Kaplan said was totally under the radar about this opportunity and hope to see it move forward.

Commission Annual Report and Mission Statement

Kaplan stated while writing the last annual report there had been several conversations back and forth, realized later they have actual instructions of what is to be included in the report. The first thing is the Commission mission statement, Laura crafted and all will sign when finished and submit to the City Council.

Hale came up with the mission and explained to the Commission. The mission read; to support and move forward the BPRW department mission and be the liaison between the City and the public.

Motion to move the language as the mission of the Commission by Farrell, second by Pierce, motion carried.

Update on Parks Foundation (Standing Item)

Bossange stated they would be meeting in July.

Report from Commission on Volunteer Hours (Standing Item)

Putzier asked for the Commission hours, Kaplan had an additional 4 hours, all others just the hours for the meeting.

**Director's Items**

Wight was not in attendance but had supplied the Commission with her written report. Moreau stated the entire waterfront is officially totally open and running, lifeguards will begin this weekend. Thanked Ritchie Snow for the great cleanup.

Commissioner's Items

Harris said he had never seen the new Marina and the new park, was interested in seeing it finished.

Hale said it had been 3 years and believes in the work the department does, very impressed with the work staff does and looks forward to speaking with staff and continuing to be involved with BPRW.

Healy shared a green-up day at the Ethan Allen pinnacle, June 24, 3-7 p.m., all tools will be provided.

Farrell thanked both Hale and Kaplan and hoped to see around town still.

Pierce also thanked both, stating it had been a pleasure to work with them.

Hurley thanked both Hale and Kaplan for their service as Commissioners, stated that her daughter, Vera completed her second Itty Bitty Soccer program this year, challenging with the weather. Going to begin doing Itty Bitty Track and Field and excited to be the parent representative on the board with children's programs.

Kaplan explained that she would be working on a program with Noah from BPRW, Burlington is piloting an RX program working with providers and physicians, spoke with Noah and Candice and will not stop working with the department in different capacities, she will be helping with this program through the State.

Kaplan said she is pleased with how the commission is being left, suggested having a brief meeting in July to meet and greet new members of the commission and vote for Chair and Vice Chair. Said it would be fine to contact her in the future with any questions.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:10 p.m. by Bossange, second by Healy, motion carried.